

with his crew mates and radioed two other gun ships to come to the aid of the Vietnamese villagers. The ensuing standoff lasting 15 minutes provided the necessary time for the choppers to airlift a dozen villagers to safety. Had it not been for Mr. Thompson's intervention, many more villagers may have been included in the list of Vietnamese civilians killed that day. I am pleased to announce that this story, Mr. Speaker, will be reaching a final chapter on Friday, March 6, 1998 as he will be receiving public recognition by the United States Army for his efforts some 30 years ago. The prestigious Soldier's Medal will be awarded to him at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial citing his "heroic performance in saving the lives of Vietnamese civilians during the unlawful massacre of noncombatants by American forces."

Mr. Speaker, this high honor marks a long over-due recognition for an American who served his country with great distinction and who continues to do so in counseling veterans in Louisiana's 7th District. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Thompson's honorable service and all those who acted beyond the call of duty in saving the lives of those My Lai villagers. I am proud that our nation will do the same this Friday.

TRIBUTE TO THE OFFICERS OF  
THE DIPLOMATIC SECURITY  
SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE; CALL FOR LEAP FOR  
DSS PERSONNEL

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) of the Department of State has been a vital law enforcement and national security asset of the United States government, although the DSS has been far less known than other federal law enforcement organizations. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to this valuable international asset, and pay tribute to DSS officers who play such a vital role in our nation's foreign policy and the security of all Americans.

Earlier this year, the normally low profile of the Diplomatic Security Service received a well-deserved boost when one of the U.S. Marshall Service's most wanted fugitives was apprehended as a result of the assistance of the DSS. For two years, Nathan Hill was one of our nation's most wanted criminal suspects. Law enforcement officials pursued him in Chicago, where he was indicted for the distribution of 9,000 pounds of cocaine through violent gangs in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Houston, and for ordering the killing of two individuals. After his indictment in 1996, Hill fled the United States.

U.S. officials suspected that Hill was in Conakry, Guinea, and the Diplomatic Security Service was pressed into service. They carried out a discreet investigation to confirm Hill's identity and his location in Guinea. DSS officers then worked with Guinean law enforcement officials to arrange the arrest of Hill, which was carried out in the presence of members of the DSS, and they work with Guinean officials to expedite his extradition to

the United States to stand trial. He is now being held without bond in Chicago, awaiting trial.

Mr. Speaker, this is only one of the more recent and public examples of the kind of outstanding law-enforcement and security assistance that the Diplomatic Security Service provides. The DSS has wide-ranging domestic and international law enforcement and security responsibilities. DSS agents are not only federal law enforcement officers, they also serve as members of the U.S. Foreign Service, and this combination makes the DSS truly unique.

For over 75 years, the DSS has been the law enforcement arm of the Department of State. It is at the forefront of the struggle against terrorism and transnational crime. No law enforcement agency of the U.S. government is more broadly represented overseas than the agents of the Diplomatic Security Service. Of the 660 special agents of the Diplomatic Security Service, some 240 are serving in 133 embassies, consulates, and U.S. interest sections abroad, and in most countries the DSS officer there is the sole representative of U.S. law enforcement.

DSS officers are trained criminal investigators, since they receive the same basic criminal investigative training as the Secret Service, U.S. Customs officials, and other federal law enforcement officers. DSS officers are given on-the-job training at domestic field offices for the first three to five years of their service. Subsequent assignments can be either domestic or foreign, and throughout a DSS officer's career he or she will have a blend of postings.

Domestically, DSS has responsibility for the protection of foreign dignitaries visiting the United States, and at 21 field offices throughout the country they are engaged in criminal passport and visa fraud investigations. Such investigations are vital to protecting our national security because terrorists and individuals engaged in international organized crime frequently use such bogus travel documents. For example, Mr. Speaker, four of the conspirators in the World Trade Center bombing were charged with passport fraud.

Overseas, DSS agents serving in U.S. diplomatic missions abroad serve as Regional Security Officers (RSO)—the principal advisor on security matters to the ambassador or chief of mission. The RSO manages the Marine Security Guards, the local guard program, security and counterintelligence briefing programs, and a broad criminal and personnel investigative program. In addition to these important functions for the security of each embassy or foreign mission, the RSO administers anti-terrorism assistance training for foreign police, and, in just the past decade, over 18,000 foreign law enforcement officers have been trained under the Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program. Abroad, DSS officers are frequently the principal liaison with foreign police and security services, in which position they assist U.S. law enforcement initiatives and investigations.

Mr. Speaker, the Diplomatic Security Service has provided invaluable security and law enforcement service in support of United States foreign policy and law enforcement objectives. The record of the men and women who comprise the DSS clearly reflects their dedication to duty and their determination to serve the American people in a wide variety of extremely difficult situations.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to report to my colleagues that in the First Session of this

Congress, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 and 1999 (H.R. 1757) which was adopted by this House on June 11, 1997, approved the inclusion of members of the Diplomatic Security Service under the provisions of the Law Enforcement Assistance Pay (LEAP). Section 1327 of H.R. 1757, which I adamantly supported in the face of considerable doubt and skepticism as the International Relations Committee went through the drafting of the legislation, provides the Diplomatic Security personnel who perform law enforcement and security functions will receive the same compensation as other federal law enforcement personnel, such as the FBI, Secret Service, and other agencies.

In light of the importance of the dedicated agents of the Diplomatic Security Service, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in this House to continue to support the LEAP provisions in the Foreign Relations Authorization legislation, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work in a cooperative fashion to see that the conference report on H.R. 1757 is completed and approved quickly.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE PAPAN

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 1998*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Irene Papan, a dedicated community leader who is being honored as an inductee into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Irene Papan has dedicated ten years and countless hours to John's Closet, a non-profit foundation she established in 1988 in memory of her late son John. John's Closet is an all-volunteer program that provides new clothing to more than 6,000 children in San Mateo County. Mrs. Papan believes that the new clothes promote confidence and self esteem, enabling low income children to more fully participate in school. She and her husband, The Honorable Louis J. Papan, have also established a Memorial Scholarship Fund that awards scholarships to special education programs and late blooming high school seniors. Mrs. Papan has been recognized by the cities of Pacifica, Daly City, and South San Francisco for her tireless efforts on behalf of children and was featured on a television program that focused on outstanding community volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Irene Papan is an outstanding citizen and I salute her for her remarkable contributions and commitment to our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating her on being inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING ZACH FOSTER AND  
PAUL PLEMONS

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 5, 1998*

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honesty,